



**City of Freeport  
SPECIAL MEETING**

6:00 p.m./Council Chambers/Freeport City Hall a  
November 17, 2016 Minutes

**I. Meeting Opened**

The November 17, 2016 Special Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Russ Barley. The meeting was held in City Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

Council members present: Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, Councilwoman Janice McLean, Councilwoman Kasey Cuchens and Councilwoman Jennifer Laird.

Staff present: City Clerk Rebecca Podraza & Parks Director Dana Weiler

**II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

The invocation was given by Councilman Farris, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**III. Financial Officer Selection Process Discussion**

Mayor Barley turned the meeting over to Clerk Podraza.

Clerk Podraza explained the process that was used to determine the top candidates to be interviewed. Council discussion regarding the process ensued.

Parks Director Weiler approached the podium to address the Council in regards to her concerns as a current employee and an applicant with the selection process.

**IV. Staff Financial Officer Interviews were conducted in the following order:**

- **Sara Bowers**
- **Elizabeth Bullock**
- **Rhonda Venero**

The Council ranked the candidates accordingly on the ranking sheets for each candidate and the scores were tallied by City Attorney Adkinson and Clerk Podraza. The scores were as follows:

- **Sara Bowers - 251**
- **Elizabeth Bullock - 182**
- **Rhonda Venero - 205**

The City of Freeport may take action on any matter during this meeting, including items that are not set forth within this agenda.

In accordance with Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's office at 850-835-2822 by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter is made of these proceedings. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these proceedings upon which any appeal is to be based (see Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes).



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*Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon made a motion to proceed with allowing the Mayor to negotiate a salary with the top ranked candidate Sara Bowers. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

**V. Adjournment**

Mayor Russ Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman McLean motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

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